

(Washington, D.C.) - The Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill to be voted on by the House Appropriations Committee today includes funding for several key water projects in San Antonio sought by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23).

"As the only San Antonio-area Member currently serving on the House Appropriations Committee, ensuring funds for San Antonio river projects are a top priority," **said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez.**

"The health and restoration of our waterways is vital to our continued economic growth and development. The inclusion of these projects in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill is just the first step in the process, but it is a very good first step toward funding these important initiatives."

"Congressman Rodriguez' leadership and diligence through the appropriations process has been vital in securing funding to start construction on the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project," **said Jim Johnson, Director of the San Antonio River Authority, District 1.** "We will continue to support the congressman and the San Antonio delegation as the appropriations process moves forward through conference to promote the need and importance of federal funding to advance this very significant and much anticipated project for our community."

Specifically, Congressman Rodriguez secured funding for three projects San Antonio:

- **\$2 million for the San Antonio River Authority (SARA)** to restore the southern San Antonio riverbank through the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project;
- **\$1.35 million for San Antonio River Authority (SARA)** to conduct a flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration study on the Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins;
- **\$500,000 for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS)** Nueces River Basin groundwater and ecosystem study.

The FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill includes \$31.6 billion for energy research and technology development, including a significant investment in clean energy and research on global climate change.

Other key highlights of the FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill:

- **\$25.243 billion for the Department of Energy** including an additional 3,500 researchers;

- \$1.9 billion in clean energy investments**, including:

- o \$200 million for solar energy, \$250 million for biofuels, \$235.4 million for developing vehicle technology for improved fuel efficiency, and \$146.5 million for research developing energy efficient buildings;

- **\$150 million for climate change research;**

- \$5.584 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers**, including operation, construction, hydropower, and management reforms.

The FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill must still be approved by the full House and will then proceed through a Conference Committee with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.